

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respond herein to the Office Action of March 21, 2007.

Claims 1-19 were rejected in the Office Action. Applicants amended Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 10-12, 14, 16-17 and 19, canceled Claims 7, 9 and 18, and respectfully request a reconsideration of the rejections.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 14 and 16-18 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Flemming et al (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0025312). Claims 3, 6, 13, 15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flemming et al.

Claim 1, as amended, recites an internally cooled strand-guiding roll having a central rotatable shaft, a roll shell fixedly positioned around the shaft and a water guide ring placed between an inner surface of the roll shell and the shaft. To accomplish cooling of the strand-guiding roll, coolant is supplied into coolant passages of the roll shell from a coolant line of the central shaft through radial branch coolant lines passing through the water guide ring.

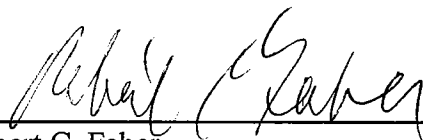
Flemming discloses a casting roll for use in a twin roll casting machine to convert liquid steel to a cast strip between the two disclosed casting rolls. The casting roll includes the roll shell 5 and water guide rings 6 and 7. However, the water guide rings of Flemming are positioned at the side-end faces of the roll shell 5 and not between the inner surface of the roll shell and the central shaft. Further, the alternative embodiment of Flemming shown in Fig. 2 discloses a coolant line 19 passing through the shaft 17 and radial channels 18 connecting the coolant line 19 with the cooling channels 8 of the roll shell. However, radial channels 18 do not pass through the water guide rings, as required by the amended Claim 1. In fact, Fig. 2 of Flemming does not show any water guide rings.

Based on the foregoing amendments and discussion, Flemming does not disclose or suggest the limitations of current Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art. Moreover, Claims 2-6, 8, 10-17 and 19 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1. Therefore, Claims 2-6, 8, 10-17 and 19 are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 and, further on their own merits.

Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested and believed to be fully warranted.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING FILED
ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE UNITED
STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
EFS FILING SYSTEM ON JUNE 21, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert C. Faber", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert C. Faber

Registration No.: 24,322

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700

RCF/AV:db